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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

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Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 28 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to draw your attention to the following information:

Since the start of the tragic events in Syria, the Syrian Arab Republic has assiduously strived to inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Security Council and the General Assembly of the ongoing brutal terrorist acts committed by armed terrorist groups active on its territory. Most of those groups are linked, directly or indirectly, to the Al-Qaida organization.

The Syrian Government has provided the Secretariat, the Security Council and its counter-terrorism committees with information and documents that clearly demonstrate how certain Arab, regional and Western States have played a destructive role by supporting, financing, training, arming and harbouring elements of the terrorist groups. Those States have recruited thousands of terrorist extremists and criminal mercenaries from all over the world, bringing them together in training camps in neighbouring States and then transporting them into Syrian territory. Western Governments have colluded in the process. Facilities continue to be provided by the Turkish Government, influential political movements and factions in neighbouring States, and Qatari and Saudi Arabian funding.

The Syrian crisis is now more than three years old. Terrorism has affected millions of Syrians. It has targeted State institutions and capacities, including infrastructure, places of worship, museums, antiquities, factories, hospitals, schools, energy facilities, and individual Syrian citizens, whether civilians, soldiers or law enforcement personnel. The Syrian Government has repeatedly appealed to the Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities by holding accountable those Governments that support terrorism against Syria. It has urged the Security Council to prevail on them to comply with Security Council counter-terrorism resolutions and cease their support for terrorism. However, influential States on the Security Council have obstructed all efforts in that regard. That situation has exacerbated the

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scourge of terrorism, allowed it to grow and heightened the threat posed by certain terrorist organizations, above all Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, the Nusrah Front and the Islamic Front.

The terrorist entities have grown and spread both from and into neighbouring States. World States are increasingly concerned about foreign terrorist fighters and the shameful role of influential States in the Security Council, which have been responsible for exacerbating the threat of terrorism in the Middle East. The Security Council has therefore recently begun to act, albeit very belatedly, by adopting the presidential statement of 28 July 2014 (S/PRST/2014/14) on illicit oil trade as source of revenue for terrorists in Syria and Iraq, which was followed by resolution 2170 (2014).

In that regard, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic stresses the following points:

- The Syrian Arab Republic welcomes the adoption by the Security Council of its presidential statement of 28 July 2014 (S/PRST/2014/14) and is grateful to the delegation of the Russian Federation for taking that initiative.
- The Syrian Arab Republic welcomes Security Council resolution 2170 (2014) on combating terrorism, particularly ISIL, the Nusrah Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida, which are active in the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic and in the kindred country Iraq.
- The Syrian Arab Republic will comply fully with Security Council resolution 2170 (2014). The latter is in harmony with Syria's stance against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and also with its repeated appeals to combat terrorism and hold accountable those Government that support terrorism by providing funds, weapons, equipment, training or logistical support, not to mention by tolerating criminal terrorist elements and extremist *takfirist* fatwas. The identities of those Governments are known to all.
- The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic is prepared to take part in regional and international counter-terrorism cooperation, whether bilaterally or through an international or regional coalition. The Syrian Government welcomes any sincere and genuine initiatives in that regard, but it stresses the need to avoid double standards and the politicization of counter-terrorism issues. It makes no sense to speak of combating terrorism while at the same time continuing efforts to weaken Syria, its economy and its Army, which is engaged in confronting terrorist groups linked to Al-Qaida.
- Resolution 2170 (2014) reaffirms the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic, and also the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Any international or regional effort to combat terrorism in Syria under that resolution must therefore take place on the basis of prior coordination and full cooperation with the Syrian Government, which is endowed with national sovereignty and possesses the capacities and expertise necessary for the success of any counter-terrorism effort in the region.
- Resolution 2170 (2014) does not authorize any State or international party to take unilateral action against any State. Any military actions implemented in

the territory of the Syria Arab Republic, on whatever pretext, without prior coordination and full cooperation with the Syrian Government shall be considered acts of aggression that would allow and justify the exercise by the Syrian Government of its sovereign right.

- The Syrian Government stresses once again that the United Nations and all of its Member States must cooperate and coordinate their counter-terrorism efforts in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001), 1540 (2004), 1624 (2005), 2161 (2014) and 2170 (2014) and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. They must work together to fight the terrorist scourge and prevent armed groups from using communication technologies, the Internet, social networking sites, television and radio for incitement, fundraising, propaganda and recruitment. They must tackle the groups' sources of funding, particularly by clamping down on so-called charitable associations in the West and in certain Gulf States; securing borders; exchanging information to suppress foreign terrorist fighters; and holding accountable those Governments that provide terrorists with funding, weapons, training, safe haven and encouragement, the latter by means of extremist *takfirist* fatwas that have nothing to do with any religion. They must hold accountable all Governments, institutions, public or private companies and individuals that engage in commercial transaction with the terrorist groups, whether directly, indirectly or through intermediaries, particularly where the oil sector is involved.

- The Syrian Government affirms that those measures are essential in order to combat terrorism, as represented by ISIL, the Nusrah Front and the groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida. If that goal is to be achieved, neighbouring States must cooperate and coordinate with the Syrian Government. Conversely, the two terrorist networks and their satellites clearly cannot be eliminated through acts of aggression against the sovereignty or territorial integrity of other States, or through any foreign air raids that may take place.

- The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic also stresses that counter-terrorism and regional and international peace and security are not best served by turning a blind eye to Israel's support for the armed terrorist groups that are active in the area of separation in the occupied Syrian Golan. Nor is it helpful that unilateral coercive economic measures have been imposed on the Syrian Government, or that the latter has not been invited to international and regional counter-terrorism meetings or to the planning of high-level counter-terrorism events on the margins of the forthcoming session of the General Assembly.

- The Syrian Government has requested that the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) should include the Islamic Front, and several other terrorist entities associated with Al-Qaida that are active in Syria, on its list of individuals and entities associated with that network. The Syrian Government reiterates that the Committee and the other relevant Security Council Committees must fulfil their counter-terrorism role.

- The regional and international powers must now prove that they are genuinely determined to combat terrorism and repudiate their previous approach, which

prolonged the crisis in Syria and the suffering of its people. Syria reminds the international community and the Security Council of their responsibilities and expects them to show a real commitment and take genuine steps to implement Security Council resolution 2170 (2014) with prior coordination and full cooperation with the Syrian and Iraqi Governments.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 110, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative